

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, BF
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON LOBSTER FISHING

REF NASSAU 1892

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE NASSAU GUARDIAN OF SEPTEMBER 9 CARRIED A LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A NATION'S RESOURCES" DEFENDING THE BAHAMAS RIGHT TO LIMIT LOBSTER FISHING IN BAHAMIAN WATERS AND THE USE OF FORCE BY THE GCOB TO PREVENT POACHING.

2. THE FOLLOWING QUOTES GIVE SOME OF THE FLAVOR AND THRUST OF THE EDITORIAL:

-- "EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS A RIGHT TO PROTECT ITS RESOURCES FOR THE USE OF ITS CITIZENS.

-- "THEY (BAHAMIAN LAWS TO DO THIS) ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE PASSED IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND ARE, IN FACT, ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH THOSE PASSED BY THE USA.

-- "THE FISHERMEN WERE WARNED REPEATEDLY (BY THE GCOB) THAT THEY SHOULD NOT POACH IN OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 NASSAU 01929 121857Z

WATERS. THESE WARNINGS HAVE APPARENTLY FALLEN ON DEAF EARS AS THE POACHING HAS CONTINUED.

-- "THE (BAHAMIAN PEOPLE) ARE IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO SECURE BAHAMIAN WATERS AND THE FISH IN THESE WATERS FOR LOCAL FISHERMEN.

-- "OUR LAWS MUST BE OBEYED AND WE CANNOT
AFFORD TO ALLOW THE ILLEGAL FISHERMEN TO
BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO BREAK THEM."

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3. COMMENT: IN OUR ESTIMATION THIS EDITORIAL
ACCURATELY REFLECTS BAHAMIAN OPINION ON THIS ISSUE.
WHILE THERE IS REGRET THAT A YOUNG FISHERMAN WAS
SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT
FORCE MUST BE USED WHEN DEALING WITH THE CUBAN-
AMERICAN FISHERMEN.
THE REPORTING ON THE AUG 11 INCIDENT AND
SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIAMI MEDIA, PARTI-
CULARLY THE MIAMI HERALD, HAS ONLY CONFIRMED OPINION
HERE, INCLUDING AMONG GCOB OFFICIALS AND THE BAHAMAS
DEFENCE FORCE, THAT THE FLORIDA-BASED FISHERMEN WILL
CONTINUE TO COME. THE BASIC DIFFERENCE IS THAT NOW
IS ASSUMED THAT THEY WILL BE MORE HEAVILY ARMED.
FURTHER IN THIS REGARD, THE NASSAU TRIBUNE OF
SEPTEMBER 9 CARRIED A FRONT PAGE STORY REPORTING
THAT CUBAN-AMERICAN LOBSTER FISHERMEN WERE
MEETING THAT NIGHT IN MIAMI TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION
TO TAKE IF THEY ENCOUNTER THE BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE
AT SEA. IT IS NOT LOST ON THE GCOB THAT THE UNDER-
LYING ASSUMPTION OF THE MEETING IS THAT THE FISHER-
MEN WILL CONTINUE TO COME.
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PAGE 03 NASSAU 01929 121857Z

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